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[54] **COMMUNICATING APPARATUS**

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[58] **Field of Search** 358/403, 400, 358/434, 435, 436, 438, 440, 442, 468; 395/114; 379/93.09, 93.14, 100.01, 100.14, 100.17, 102.02

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

In a communicating apparatus, telephone or directory application software can be automatically initiated in a personal computer. An off-hook detecting unit of the apparatus continuously makes a check to determine whether or not an external telephone is set to an off-hook state. If this is the case, the off-hook detecting unit sends off-hook information via a serial interface to the computer. An application initiation request unit of the computer monitors the serial interface. Having recognized an off-hook state of telephone in accordance with the off-hook information, the request unit automatically initiates the directory application software.

6 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets